

1 (original): A process for the preparation of a powder coating composition, comprising the steps of:

copolymerizing 5-90 % by weight of at least one monomeric compound selected from the group consisting of glycidyl group-containing unsaturated compounds and methylglycidyl group-containing unsaturated compounds with 95-10 % by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer in methanol to obtain a resin solution; and

spray-drying said resin solution to obtain a powdery resin.

2 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said methanol is present in said resin solution in an amount of 5-99.99 % by weight.

3 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said glycidyl group-containing unsaturated compounds are selected from the group consisting of glycidyl acrylate and glycidyl methacrylate and said methylglycidyl group-containing unsaturated compounds are selected from the group consisting of methylglycidyl acrylate and methylglycidyl methacrylate.

4 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ethylenically ~~ethylenically~~ unsaturated monomer is at least one member ~~member~~ selected from the group consisting of alkyl acrylates, alkyl methacrylates, cycloalkyl acrylates, cycloalkyl methacrylates, hydroxyalkyl acrylates, hydroxyalkyl methacrylates, styrene, α -alkylstyrenes, acrylonitrile, acrylamide and methacrylamide.

5 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, before said spray-drying step,

mixing said resin solution with at least one member selected from the group consisting of curing agents, pigments and additives.

6 (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, before said spray-drying step, mixing said resin solution with a methanol solution or dispersion containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of curing agents, pigments and additives using a continuous mixer.

Claims 7-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (new): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said spraying is performed so that the powder coating composition thereby obtained has a volatile matter content of 1.5 % by weight or less.

Claim 14 (new): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said spraying is performed so that the powder coating composition thereby obtained has a volatile matter content of 1.0 % by weight or less.

Claim 15 (new): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said spraying is performed so that the powder coating composition thereby obtained has a volatile matter content of 0.5 % by weight or less.